Confidential Collection No. 16 of 38-39

year 1937-38
CB 93-37-14, 15"
"B" Nov 1938

subject:- Repression in Mysore
statement by the Indian
Civil Liberties Union, Bombay

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

Collection No. 160538-39

**Year 1937 —1938.**

C.B. 93-37-14, 15

B. Nov. 1938

General and Revenue
Secretariat.

**Confidential Branch.**

**SUBJECT**

Repression in Mysore - Statement by the Indian Civil Liberties Union, Bombay.

| PREVIOUS REFERENCES. | LATER REFERENCES. |
|---|---|
| | |

WD 1915—GPB—500—24-2-30

"REPRESSION IN MYSORE" — Statement by the Indian Civil Liberties Union, Bombay.

General and Revenue Secretariat | File No. | of 193 | [App. F. III—2

Serial No.

A Press cutting containing the communiqué issued by the Indian Civil Liberties Union, Bombay, on the subject of "Repression in Mysore" is resubmitted for infor[n] and orders as to whether any answer should be given to the statement. [It is regretted that it was included in the general cuttings yesterday and was not submitted separately].

The communiqué is a mere recital of the arrests, convictions, restraint-orders, etc., during the past two months and does not lend itself to a rejoinder. The infor[n] has probably been supplied by the local Branch of the Union.

In this connection attention is invited to the reply sent to the Secy. of the Union at Bombay on 27th November (Flag O). In spite of the assurance given that there is no repression of any kind in the State, the Union is trying to create the impression that "repression is on the increase".

Chief Secy.

HRRao 10.12.37

I think a short rejoinder may be given as if from a Correspondent that notwithstanding the alleged

CHIEF SECRETARY, 10 DEC. 1937 GOVT. OF MYSORE

NOTE—Contn. Sheet.

WD 0284—GPB—30,000—13-8-37

V

C.B.870

File No: of 193

General and Revenue Secretariat

prohibitory orders and prosecutions, Speeches cannot be delivered throughout the State, meetings are held in Bangalore almost daily and the papers continue to give current news from all quarters.

Dewan)

DK 10/12

10-12-37

MK 11/12

DEWAN'S OFFICE 11 DEC. 1937 No. 3874

P.O.

Ordered to be recorded.

JRR 1/11/38.

These will be sent over to the Confidential Branch for record as all the letters bear C.B. file numbers

JRR 5/11/38.

Yes, please.

JRRao 5.11.38

Conf. C.B.

3

The Indian Express
15th December 1937

Town Press cuttings

# Repression In Mysore

## CONGRESSMEN NOT ALLOWED TO ADDRESS MEETINGS

(From Our Own Correspondent)
BANGALORE, Dec. 14.

Messrs. H. K. Verranna Gowda, Member, Representative Assembly. Secretary, Congress Assembly Party, Mrs. Veeranna Gowda and Suryanarayana Pandit, undertook an extensive tour in the State to do political propaganda. During their tour, writes the Publicity Officer in the course of a statement to the press, they were intimidated by the Police at Chennarayapatna. They were not allowed by them to speak. "The Police pulled down the pandal erected for the purpose and put out all the lights that were burning. The people were also dispersed by threats and coercion.

"At Hosadurga when the Congress leaders were about to address a huge open air meeting, they were served with an order under Section 144 Cr. P. C. prohibiting them from delivering public speeches for a period of one month"

"Counter propaganda by Government against Congress is very active in these parts. The Amildars are instructing all patels and shanbougs to dissuade people from joining Congress and mutchalikas (written statements) are being taken in this connection.

Submitted for perusal.

GRRao

Chief Sec.

Dewan) MS 16/12

Govt. are advising people not to be led away by people who make violent speeches and create disaffection. It is not a case of joining or not joining the Congress. The speeches are not at all helpful for the Constructive programme of the Congress with which the Govt. have no conflict. This shd be made clear.

Dewan) MS 16/12

P.O. ma talk slip

Thank the dom.

It may send with the papers

MS 17-12-37

Action taken
GRR 20/12/37

DIWAN'S OFFICE
17 DEC. 1937
No.....
CHIEF SECRETARY
16. DEC. 19..
GOVT. OF MYSORE.

4

The Daily News. 7/12/37

# Invasion of Civil Liberties In India

## Union's Statement

The following Press Communique has been issued by the Indian Civil Liberties Union, Bombay:—

**MYSORE**

Repression in Mysore is on the increase as is evident from the number of arrests and convictions, externment and internment orders and the suppression of the Press. The Dewan,s public denials do not seem to be borne out by facts. (1) Restraint orders were served on a number of persons including H. C. Dasappa, T. Mariyappa, T. S. Rajagopala Iyengar, K. Seshadri, S. Rangaramaih and M. N. Jois by the District Magistrate, Mysore. (2) M. N. Chaudhri, Publicity Officer, Mysore Congress Board was arrested on Nov. 13th. (3) Proceedings under the security sections 108, 112 and 117 (3) C.P.C. have been launched against five Congress workers in Dodballapur town namely, Chennabassappa, M. Veerabhadriah Pundalika and V. Alyar, a student, for alleged seditious speeches. (4) Restraint order for two months under section 144 C.P.C. was served on November 14th on T. S. R. Iyengar Advocate of Mysore and E. N. S. Rao a Congress worker who accompanied him to Hole Narsipur. (5) Bangalore police searched on Nov. 16 the Indian Press for alleged objectionable handbills on a warrant issued by the City Magistrate under section 94 C.P.C. (6) 'Prajamatha' a very popular weekly whose Editor was externed on 24 hours notice, has been disallowed publication in the State under the drastic section 3 of the Mysore Newspaper Regulation III of 1907. The order under section 144 C.P.C. prohibiting meetings and processions in Bangalore City which expired on November 17th has been promulgated prohibiting meetings for a period of two months in Bangalore Park. (8) K.T. Bhasnyam and N. C. Thimma Reddi, Congress leaders, were convicted on November 8th by the City Magistrate, Bangalore, for sedition and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for 18 months each and to pay a fine of Rs. 1000 or in default a further term of three months. (9) The Superintendent of Bangalore Central Jail has refused permission to S.K. Venkatranga Iyengar, Advocate, to interview K. T. Bashyam with a view to advise him to prefer an appeal against his conviction and sentence.

5

Published in the Daily Post

# CIVIL LIBERTIES IN MYSORE

## NO CURTAILMENT

( From A Correspondent)

A Press Communique issued by the Indian Civil Liberties Union, Bombay, opens with the statement that "Repression in Mysore is on the increase as is evident from the number of arrests and convictions, externment and internment orders and the suppression of the press". To any one conversant with the real situation in Mysore such a statement, to put it mildly, is a gross exaggeration. There has been no attempt to stifle the expression of legitimate aspirations of the people. Notwithstanding the prohibitory orders and prosecutions, which have been forced on the government by a handful of agitators who are out to make violent speeches and create disaffection, speeches continue to be delivered throughout the State, meetings are held in Bangalore almost daily, and the papers continue to give currency to news from all quarters.

What is all this agitation about and what is the genesis of it? I would commend to your readers a thoughtful article contributed by "An Upper India State Subject" to Roy's Weekly of Delhi dated 20th. December, 1937. The correspondent very rightly points out that the agitation is confined to a small group which "has sought to take political advantage within the State of the influence which the Indian National Congress happens to command in the country". And it is these agitators who want to share with the government the responsibility for the maintenance of public peace !

Within the last few days the Mysore Congress Board has been at pains to mislead the public by the statement that "counter-propaganda by government against the Congress is very active in many parts of the State". Does the Congress Board expect government officers to allow the masses to be led away by people who make violent speeches and create disaffection ? Such speeches are not helpful for the constructive programme of the Congress with which the Government have no conflict.

---

6 CB 870

# INDIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

CS 93-37-14

PRESIDENT:
RABINDRANATH TAGORE

CHAIRMAN:
SAROJINI NAIDU

BOMBAY MUTUAL BUILDING,
SIR PHEROZSHAH MEHTA ROAD.

BOMBAY, 5th November 1937.

No.4546

DEWAN'S OFFICE

M.646

Sir Misra Mirza Ismail,
Dewan of Mysore,
Mysore.

Sir,

I was waiting for the tense situation created by the arrest of Mr. Nariman to quieten down a little. In August last the Indian Civil Liberties Union addressed a letter to you inviting your attention to the necessity of allowing the elementary rights of free speech and association to the people of Mysore State. It is a demand which the Union shall never be tired of repeating as long as there are hinderances in their free exercise.

A close study of recent events and the implications therein makes one feel extremely concerned about the future of civil liberties in Mysore State. In the last few days the State has taken a few drastic steps which, in our opinion, the situation does not at all justify. The requisitioning of the long unused Press Act, especially after the statements made in the last Assembly to suppress without even the formality of a trial the nationalist Kannada daily called "Janavani" published at Bangalore City, and the summary externment order, served on Mr. B.N. Gupta, Editor, "Prajamatha", one of the popular Kannada weeklies, are instances in point. No State that aspires to claim any modernity can afford to throttle the Press through the imposition of a repressive Press Act. If either the Janavani or the Prajamatha carried on activities undesirable from the point of view of the State, the most logical step to take was to bring them before a Court of law. The State, we feel sure, will never want to deny the citizens their legitimate rights.

Newspapers are reporting daily of arrests of political workers under the various repressive sections of the Indian Penal Code and the State Police Regulations. Orders under Section 144 C.P.C. prohibiting meetings and processions have also been promulgated, it seems, in various parts of the State. People resident outside the State cannot but view with grave concern these violent encroachments upon the normal rights of citizenship. The function of the State does not begin or end

with the maintenance of law and order. The utility of law and order is measured in terms of the welfare of the citizens for which the State primarily exists. It is as much the responsibility of the State to respect the fundamental rights of its citizens as it is its duty to attend to the preservation of peace and order. The one without the other is meaningless. The Indian Civil Liberties Union believes that the dual ends are best served by allowing a normal functioning of the elementary rights. We therefore hope that you will restore to the people without delay what they have been so unceremoniously robbed off in the last few days.

Yours truly,

K. B. Menon.

Secretary.

Serial No.

Draft reply submitted for Consideration

Please put up a fair draft as revised.

19.11.37

Submd
CPA
19/11

NOTE—Contn. Sheet.

WD 0284—GPB—30,000—13-9-37

Letter from the Secretary, Indian Civil Liberties Union, Bombay.

CB 870.

File No. | of 193 . | General and Revenue Secretariat

Fair draft submitted.

VS. 22/11

Dewan)

For perusal before issue.

MK 22/11

24-11-37

CHIEF ... 22 NOV. 19... GOVT. OF MYSORE.

DEWAN'S OFFICE 23 NOV. 1937 No. 3357

Revised draft.

To.

The Secretary,

Indian Civil Liberties Union,

B o m b a y.

Dear ,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No.4546 dated 5th November 1937 addressed to the Dewan expressing your Union's grave concern about the future of civil liberties in the Mysore State. I am to state that your suggestion that there have been violent encroachments upon the normal rights of citizenship here is apparently based on reports misrepresenting the real facts. ~~We are afraid~~ It is just possible that you ~~seem to~~ are labouring under a wrong impression in regard to recent events, grossly exaggerated accounts of which have been circulated by interested people in order to create an impression that there is repression in Mysore. ~~There is no more repression here than there is elsewhere in India.~~ Copies of two Press Notes issued by Govt., as also of appeals issued by the citizens of Bangalore and Mysore Cities are enclosed for your information.

As regards the newspapers referred to in your letter, I am to state that there was no question of "requisitioning of the provisions of the long unused Press Act". The grant of ~~of~~ permission ~~to be publication~~ to the publication of newspapers in the State and the withdrawal of such permission are done under the provisions of the ordinary law (the Mysore Newspapers Regulation, 1908) in force here,

and there have been several instances in the past of such withdrawal where circumstances demanded the same.

I am to assure you that the Mysore Govt. are only doing what any Government with a sense of responsibility would do in the prevailing circumstances, and what the Bombay Government have actually been doing at Sholapur. The conditions are much the same here.

Yours ~~sincerely~~ faithfully,

MS
22/11/37

Chief Secy.

1530/C.B 93-37-15
Encl 4 27/11/37

To

The Secretary,
Indian Civil Liberties Union,
B o m b a y.

Dear Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No.4546 dated 5th November 1937, addressed to the Dewan expressing your Union's grave concern about the future of civil liberties in the Mysore State.

C. Sec'y
MS
26-11-37

Cab.
MS
27.11.37

I am to state that your suggestion that there have been violent encroachments upon the normal rights of citizenship in this State is apparently based upon incorrect information supplied to you. It is obvious that you are labouring under a wrong impression in regard to recent events here, grossly exaggerated accounts of which have been circulated by interested people in order to create an impression that there is repression in Mysore. I am to assure you that such is not the case, and that there is no repression of any kind in this State. It is only those that deliberately broke the law that have been proceeded against and none others. Copies of the two Press Notes issued by the Government, as well as of the appeals issued by the Citizens of Bangalore and Mysore Cities are enclosed for your information. Coming as they do from highly respectable and responsible men with a real stake in the country, you will no doubt attach due value to those statements.

As regards the newspapers referred to in your letter, I am to state that there was no question of the "requisitioning of the provisions of the long unused Press Act". The grant of permission for the publication of newspapers in the State and the

withdrawal of such permission are done under the provisions of the law (the Mysore Newspapers Regulation, 1908) which is still in force and there have been several instances in the past of permission being withdrawn where circumstances necessitated it.

Apparently, you have not seen the articles that appeared in those papers. If you had, you would possibly have hesitated to question the necessity of the action taken against them. The one object of those papers was - there are unfortunately still some - to create ill-will against Government and to misrepresent their policy and question every act of theirs, however innocuous or well intentioned thereby creating discontent and disaffection in the State. No Government can long tolerate mischief of this kind.

I am to suggest to you to send someone to tour in the State and ascertain the exact facts for the information of your Union. I should be very glad to see him and give him all possible facilities.

It is the aim and endeavour of the Government of Mysore to hold up the State of Mysore as an example to the rest of India in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the people, and they believe that, if the true facts were known, the Government would receive the appreciation of even those who are now criticising them.

In conclusion, I am to say that the Mysore Government are only doing no more than what any Government with a due sense of responsibility would do in the prevailing circumstances and it is no part of their policy to treat anyone unjustly or unconstitutionally.

Yours faithfully,

Chief Secretary to Government.

12

1530/C.B
Encl 4

27th November 1937

Dear Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No.4546 dated 5th November 1937, addressed to the Dewan expressing your Union's grave concern about the future of civil liberties in the Mysore State.

I am to state that your suggestion that there have been violent encroachments upon the normal rights of citizenship in this State is apparently based upon incorrect information supplied to you. It is obvious that you are labouring under a wrong impression in regard to recent events here, grossly exaggerated accounts of which have been circulated by interested people in order to create an impression that there is repression in Mysore. I am to assure you that such is not the case, and that there is no repression of any kind in this State. It is only those that deliberately broke the law that have been proceeded against and none others. Copies of the two Press Notes issued by the Government, as well as of the appeals issued by the citizens of Bangalore and Mysore Cities are enclosed for your information. Coming as they do from highly respectable and responsible men with a real stake in the country, you will no doubt attach due value to those statements.

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Yours faithfully,

T o

The Secretary,
Indian Civil Liberties Union,
Bombay.